



Office of Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Daily Media Watch

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CURRENT

'Don't ask, don't tell,' on its last legs, still has teeth – The Washington Post

THE BAN ON gay men and lesbians serving openly in the military is on its last legs. But until that day comes, this absurd policy remains in effect, and the danger it poses to gay service members is ever present. The story of Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach is the latest cautionary tale. He has been a member of the Air Force for 19 years. In May 2008, Col. Fehrenbach was accused of sexual assault by a man in Idaho, where he was stationed.

Laurean murder trial to resume today – JD News

Testimony is set to continue today in the murder trial of a former Camp Lejeune Marine accused of killing and burying a pregnant colleague in 2007. Prosecutors called 22 witnesses in the first two days of testimony in the first-degree murder trial of Cesar Laurean, 23, who stands accused in the bludgeoning death of 20-year-old Maria Lauterbach. Marines, local, state and federal investigators, and neighbors, among others, testified last week.

Additional articles concerning the Lauterbach case:

- **Supervisor praises ex-Marine charged with murder** – News Observer
- **Day Two of Laurean testimony wraps up** – CBS Outlet

PREVIOUS

Gunston Hall CO fired, former XO, CMC punished – Navy Times

The skipper of the dock landing ship Gunston Hall was fired Thursday, and the executive officer and command master chief were punished following an investigation into charges that ranged from sexual harassment and simple assault to drunk and disorderly conduct. All of the charges stemmed from conduct during the ship's deployment that ended in early July. Rear Adm. Dave Thomas, commander of Naval Surface Force Atlantic, removed Cmdr. Fred Wilhelm from command.

Defense: Slain Marine was untruthful – WRAL.com

The trial of a former Camp Lejeune Marine charged with killing a pregnant comrade almost three years ago got off to a fast start Thursday, with the prosecutor describing a brutal crime and the defense attorney citing the victim's emotional stability. Cesar Laurean is charged with killing Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, 20, of Vandalia, Ohio, and burning and burying her body in a fire pit in the backyard of his Jacksonville home in December 2007.

Military Academy still faces religion and gender-bias problems – Colorado Springs Independent blog – Pam Zubeck

A climate survey at the Air Force Academy shows there's room for improvement in areas of proselytizing and gender bias, as well as racial bias. The report, released today, was based on a 40

percent return rate from the 4,595 cadets contacted, and 53 percent return rate from more than 3,500 staff. Among the findings: Although sexual assault numbers were "too small to report," the survey found 43 percent of female active duty personnel at the academy witnessed sexist behaviors.

Lt. col. sues over 'don't ask' – Air Force Times

An Air Force officer a year from retirement is suing to keep the service from kicking him out under the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gay service members. Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach, an F-15E weapons systems officer at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, admitted he was gay in 2008 after a civilian acquaintance accused him of rape. Fehrenbach's attorney said he learned Aug. 4 that personnel officials were close to recommending his dismissal to Air Force Secretary Michael Donley.

Langer acquitted on sexual assault charges – Center Post Dispatch

A jury in Mesa County took less than 90 minutes to find former Center police officer Wade Langer, 37, not guilty of all charges of sexual assault against a minor last Thursday. Langer was arrested in Center by fellow police officer Keith Schultz last July following the completion of an investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. "Keith Schultz was my best friend here," Langer said during an interview in Center on Monday. "He arrested me in tears."

Note: Former Military medic.

Seminars tackle gender issues in Afghan forces - NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (blog) - Rachel Martinez

The communiqué to come out of the July 20, 2010, Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan specifically addresses gender and children's rights. It calls for a commitment to gender issues and training in all civic education programs. In line with the intent of this communiqué, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, with support from the Ministry of Interior, sponsored a series of gender seminars.

Officer Sues to Block His Discharge Under Gay Ban – The New York Times

In early 2008, just eight days before he was to deploy in support of the war in Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach, a decorated Air Force flight officer, was told he was under investigation on charges of sexually assaulting a civilian and of violating the military's ban on homosexuality. Lawyers for Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach say his case is an egregious application of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Note: This story was carried in several other outlets and blogs.

Trial Continues for Benton City Man Accused of Sexually Abusing Young Girls – Kerptv.com

KEPR was there as the trial continued for a Benton County firefighter accused of sexually abusing girls. Robert Trainer is accused of sexually assaulting five girls over an eight year period. He is charged with two counts of first-degree rape of a child and one count each of second-degree rape of a child, first-degree child molestation and second-degree child molestation. He is a former Service member. Military Service was not identified.

Sex signals coming to Schriever – Schriever Air Force Base

Dating can be difficult, especially for military members. Do you text a person immediately after they give you their number or do you wait three days? Does "Do you want to watch a movie in my dorm room," really mean just watch a movie? Those are just the verbal signs ... what about the non-verbals? Team Schriever members will get the chance to learn the answers to some of these questions during the Sex Signals Show.

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